(b) if so, whether under the transfer/placement policy for Group A officers belonging to Indian Revenue Services (CBEC and CBDT), posting of a working couple is permitted at same station; and

(c) the list of such Group A officers whose requests for posting have been accepted in last three years and the list of Group A officers whose requests have not been accepted alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the transfer/placement policy for Group A officers belonging to Indian Revenue Service, posting at the same station as the spouse may be allowed subject to instructions issued by Department of Personnel and Training on the issue provided that jointly they do not occupy more than 50 percent of the posts of the posts in the station of posting.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Income Tax Benefit to Pharma Companies

2324. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are allowing 15 per cent Income Tax benefit to Pharma Companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of section 35(2AB)(1) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, a company engaged in the business of manufacture or production of drugs and pharmaceuticals is allowed a deduction of 150% of the expenditure incurred by such company on scientific research (not being expenditure in the nature of cost of any land or building) on in-house research and development facility as approved by the prescribed authority.

In essence, the total tax benefit works out to 45% in the case of a pharmaceutical company on account of weighted deduction of 150% of expenditure incurred on in-house research and development facility as against 30% tax benefit on account of deduction of 100% expenditure incurred on scientific research related to the business implying 15% extra tax benefit (without taking into account the surcharge and education tax in the calculation).